GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Agricultural Research Centres
Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various Agricultural Research Institutes set up in various States during the last two Five Year Plan period along with their location thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a number of States including Goa has made great strides in the field of agricultural production and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up new agricultural research centres in various States including Goa and if so, the details thereof along with the location thereof; and

(d) whether major initiatives have been taken to disseminate new farm technology at the farm level and also sharpen the skills of the farmers and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2016 REGARDING
"AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRES"

(a) The details of the Agricultural Research Institutes set up in various States during the last two Five Year Plan period along with their location are given in enclosed Annexure-I.

(b) Yes, Madam.

Tremendous strides have been made in all spheres of agricultural sciences by the country and the states including Goa. The country's food grain production over past decades has registered a phenomenal growth. During 2015-16, the country produced 252.23 MT of food grains (235.17 MT cereals & 17.06 MT Pulses), 25.90 MT Oilseeds and 346.72 MT Sugarcane besides producing more than 283 million tonnes of horticultural produce from an area of 24.3 million ha. Over the last decade, the area under horticulture has risen by 3.8 % per annum and production by 7.6 % per annum. By adopting a path of science and technology led growth of its agriculture, India has reaped dividends in the form of a strong, self-reliant and resilient food security situation. These achievements in the agricultural sector are attributable in large measure to technology-led improvements in agricultural productivity and investments in R & D in agriculture & allied sectors and effective pursuit of improved technologies by farmers.

During the period, 2014 till April 2016, the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) has developed/notified 307 high yielding varieties of field crops. A number of early maturing and thermo-tolerant crop varieties with higher nutrient and water use efficiency for newer niches and cropping systems have been developed and released for cultivation. The NARS in association with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) made available 347.31, 351.77 and 343.52 lakh quintals of certified/ quality seeds during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively, to the farmers. In view of the prevailing climate change scenario and the recurrence of draughts/ unseasonal rains during past 2 years, high priority has been accorded by the Govt. towards the development of climate resilient varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops. During 2014-15, 63 new drought tolerant varieties have been developed. Cost effective novel cane node technology and quality tissue culture seedling material in sugarcane, high density planting in cotton, quality seed production and microbial retting in jute, broad bed furrow planting technology in soybean, direct seeded rice and resource conservation technologies in wheat have been developed and demonstrated.

The increase in average production and yield in triennium ending (TE) 2014-15 over TE 2009-10 has been 12.6 and 13.0 % for cereals, 24.5 and 18.9% for pulses, 13.3 and 12.6% for food grains, 10.5 and 10.5% for oilseeds, 13.9 and 4.1% for sugarcane, 45.1 and 14.1% for cotton, 1 and 13.0% for jute and mesta and 10.5 and 22.9% for coarse cereals. In comparison to this period, as per the 3rd Advance Estimate of 2015-16, there is an increasing trend in the average yield of cereals, food grains and Jute & Mesta crop group despite poor monsoon. Likewise, the country has recorded remarkable growth in milk production which increased from 116.4 million tonnes (2009-10) to an estimated 155.5 million tonnes (2015-16). The egg production also increased from 60.3 billion (2009-10) upto 82.92 billion (2015-16). Similarly, the total fish production in the country during 2009-10 was 7.99 lakh tonnes (2009-10)

which increased up to an estimated 10.16 MT (2014-15). The information, state wise and total, on major agricultural commodities has been given in Annexure II.

In the state of Goa too, the agriculture is gaining momentum on account of the recent shift of the farmers back farmers who neglected their profession are shifting over to the sector. The total area available for utilization in the State is 3,61,113 ha of which total cropped area is 1,57,702 ha as per 2014-15 reports. Out of the total cropped area, 50,523 ha (32.04%) is under food grains, 1,03,258 ha (65.48%) is under horticultural crops and 3,921 ha (2.48%) under crops like sugarcane and oilseeds (groundnut). The per ha productivity of food grains in Goa during 2014-15 was 25.45 quintals/ha which was better than all India average 20.28 q/ha. Likewise, the per ha productivity of pulses, groundnut and total oilseeds during 2014-15 were 9.44, 21.68 and 18.99 all of which are also above national average of 7.28, 10.23 and 10.75 quintals/ha respectively. The Govt. of India under the scheme National Horticulture Mission, has given a lot of focus to the promotion of Horticulture in the state. Major broad groups including percent area under their cultivation include; Plantation crops including coastal Horticulture Mainly Cashew (25.98), Spices (5.97), vegetable production under protected cultivation (4.0), Non perennial fruit crops (3.2) and Mango & other perennial fruit crops (2.22). Of the total net sown area of 129243 ha, about 28,459 ha cropped area is sown more than once. The total irrigated area is about 38,800 ha. In the area of milk production Goa has performed reasonably well. The milk production of Goa was 58.96 thousand tonnes (2009-10) which rose to 68 thousand tonnes (2013-14). Under National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS) through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) a project on "Open sea cage culture" for culturing high value fish viz, Cobia and Lates in South Goa an amount of Rs. 306.50 crore has been sanctioned by the Govt. of India through RKVY. Fish production of Goa, which remain one of the major sources of agricultural revenue increased from 89.96 tonnes (2011-12) upto an estimated 117.45 tonnes (2014-15).

(c) There is no proposal under consideration or pending with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to set up new agricultural research centres at the moment under XII Plan.

(d) A major scheme for the strengthening of existing KVKs and the establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been approved with an outlay of Rs.3900 crores during XII plan. The number of Zonal Project Directorates has been increased to 11 from the existing eight. The status of the Zonal Project Directorates has also been upgraded to the institute appropriately named "Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute". At present there are a total 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning at the district level and engaged in the assessment and demonstration of technologies/products under different agro-ecosystems developed by the National Agricultural Research System of the country. The activities of the KVKs include on-farm trials (OFTs) to identify location specific technologies in various farming systems; frontline demonstrations (FLDs) and training of farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension personnel. In order to show potentiality of technologies in terms of technological inputs, information and knowledge, KVKs have served as the knowledge and resource centre at the district level in the country.

A total of 98624 demonstrations covering an area of 52326 ha were organized. Of these 90974 (92%) demonstrations covering an area of 47001 ha were on crops (cereals, millets, oil seeds, pulses, commercial crops, fibres, spices, medicinal, plantation, fodder, horticultural crops etc.). In order to promote hybrids cultivation in various crops a total of 7650 demonstrations in an area of 5325 ha were laid down. The hybrids demonstrated were cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, etc. 2652 technology interventions were assessed in 4003 locations by laying out 27008 trials on the farmer's field on various crops under different thematic areas. As many as 52437 training programmes were organized on various technologies to update their knowledge and skills wherein 14.48 lakh farmers /farm women, rural youths and extension personnel participated. For creating awareness among farmers about improved technologies and to provide timely advisory to farmers, KVKs organized different extension programmes.

A total of 6.46 lakh extension programmes/activities in the form of advisory services, diagnostic and clinic services, celebration of important days, exhibitions, exposure visits, ex-trainees sammelan, farm science club conveners meet, farmers' seminar, farmers visits to KVK, field days, film shows, group meetings, kisanghosthi, kisanmelas, lectures delivered as resource persons, mahilamandals conveners meetings, method demonstrations, plant/animal health camps, scientists'' visit to farmer''s field, self-help group meetings, soil health camps, soil test campaigns, workshops and others were organized which attracted the participation of 102.39 lakh participants of which 98.79 lakh were farmers and 3.60 lakh extension personnel. The KVKs also organized 0.86 lakh extension programmes through electronic and print media to have wider coverage in the districts. These included electronic media in the form of TV programmes, radio talks, CDs/DVDs, extension literature, newspaper coverage, popular articles, leaflets, folders and books/booklets.

Besides these activities, the KVKs provide technological backstopping to Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) and other extension agencies in the district. A district level Joint Action Plan for enhancing interface between scientists, extension functionaries and farmers is prepared through a joint meeting of KVK and ATMA officials under the chairmanship of the District Collector. Quarterly interface meetings are held by all KVKs involving all line departments of the district to monitor the implementation of the Joint Action Plan to share new information and technologies for wider dissemination in the district. KVK Linkages are created with other key programs of the Government like RKVY, MNREGA and NHM and other players in the field of extension including public sector, farmers' organizations, NGOs, Commodity boards and private sector.

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